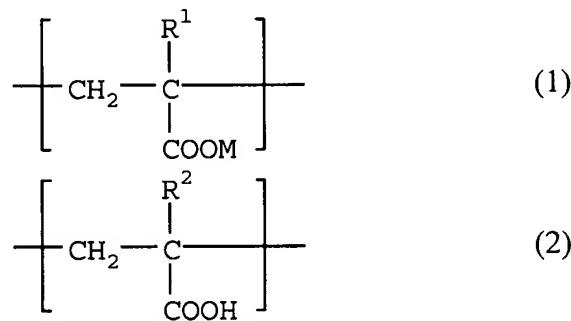


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An adhesive composition for dermal patch, comprising
(A) a (meth)acrylic acid-base polymer having repeating units represented by formulae (1) and (2):



wherein R¹ and R² each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group and M represents NH₄⁺ or an alkali metal,

with a ratio of (1)/(2) being in a range from 100/0 to 90/10 (by mol),

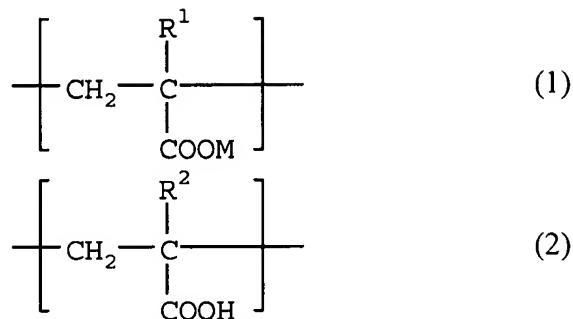
(B) water,

(C) a polyhydric alcohol and

(D) an aluminum compound,

with the content of (B) water being from 5 to ~~30~~ 18.975 mass%.

2. (previously presented): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 1, wherein (A) the (meth)acrylic acid-base polymer having repeating units represented by formulae (1) and (2) has a viscosity of 400 mPa·s or more in 0.2 mass% aqueous solution:



wherein all the symbols have the same meaning as defined in claim 1.

3. (original): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is a trivalent or of a higher valence.

4. (original): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 3, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is glycerin.

5. (original): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polyhydric alcohol content is from 40 to 94.5 mass% based on the entire amount of the composition.

6. (original): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 1, wherein a water-soluble aluminum compound and a magnesium hydroxide aluminum hydroxide co-precipitate are used in combination as the aluminum compound.

7. (original): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 1, wherein the aluminum compound content is from 0.01 to 20 mass% based on the entire amount of the composition.

8. (original): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 1, which further comprises (E) a polymer compound having high affinity for the polyhydric alcohol.

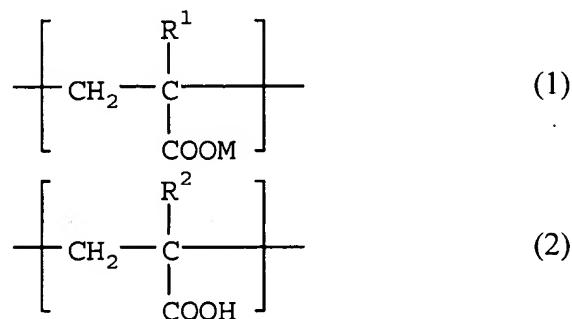
9. (original): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 8, wherein (E) the polymer compound having high affinity for the polyhydric alcohol is at least one member selected from the group consisting of a carboxyvinyl polymer and an N-vinylacetamide-sodium acrylate copolymer.

10. (original): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 8 or 9, wherein the content of the polymer compound having high affinity for the polyhydric alcohol is from 0.01 to 20 mass% based on the entire amount of the composition.

11. (previously presented): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 1, which comprises diclofenac sodium as a pharmaceutically active ingredient.

12. (previously presented): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 1, which comprises capsaicin as a pharmaceutically active ingredient.

13. (previously presented): A process for producing an adhesive composition for dermal patch, the adhesive composition comprising, as essential components, (A) a (meth)acrylic acid-base polymer having repeating units represented by formulae (1) and (2):



wherein R¹ and R² each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group and M represents NH₄⁺ or an alkali metal,

with a ratio of (1)/(2) being in a range from 100/0 to 90/10 (by mol), (B) water, (C) a polyhydric alcohol and (D) an aluminum compound and comprising, if desired, (E) a polymer compound having high affinity for the polyhydric alcohol, with the content of (B) water being from 5 to 30 mass% above,

wherein the process comprises mixing (A) the (meth)acrylic acid-base polymer and a solution of (C) the polyhydric alcohol in (B) water to give a water concentration of 50% or more in the total mass thereof, and then adding and mixing the remaining ingredients (C) the residual polyhydric alcohol, (D) the aluminum compound and if desired, (E) the polymer compound to adjust the water concentration to a range of 5 to 30%.

14. (previously presented): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 2, which comprises diclofenac sodium as a pharmaceutically active ingredient.

15. (previously presented): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 2, which comprises capsaicin as a pharmaceutically active ingredient.

16. (previously presented): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 3, which comprises diclofenac sodium as a pharmaceutically active ingredient.

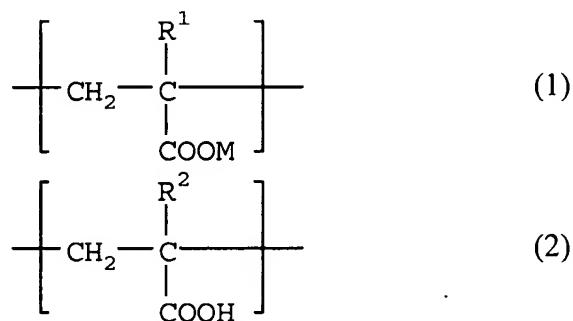
17. (previously presented): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 3, which comprises capsaicin as a pharmaceutically active ingredient.

18. (previously presented): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 4, which comprises diclofenac sodium as a pharmaceutically active ingredient.

19. (previously presented): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 4, which comprises capsaicin as a pharmaceutically active ingredient.

20. (new): The process for producing an adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 13, wherein the content of (B) water is from 5 to 18.975 mass%, and wherein the process comprises mixing (A) the (meth)acrylic acid-base polymer and a solution of (C) the polyhydric alcohol in (B) water to give a water concentration of 50% or more in the total mass thereof, and then adding and mixing the remaining ingredients (C) the residual polyhydric alcohol, (D) the aluminum compound and if desired, (E) the polymer compound to adjust the water concentration to a range of 5 to 18.975%.

21. (new): An adhesive composition for dermal patch, comprising
(A) a (meth)acrylic acid-base polymer having repeating units represented by formulae (1) and (2):



wherein R^1 and R^2 each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group and M represents NH_4^+ or an alkali metal,

with a ratio of (1)/(2) being in a range from 100/0 to 90/10 (by mol),

- (B) water,
- (C) a polyhydric alcohol and
- (D) an aluminum compound,

with the content of (B) water being from 5 to 30 mass%,
wherein the (meth)acrylic acid-base polymer having repeating units represented by
formulae (1) and (2) has a viscosity of 400 mPa·s or more in 0.2 mass% aqueous solution.

22. (new): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 21, which
comprises diclofenac sodium as a pharmaceutically active ingredient.

23. (new): The adhesive composition for dermal patch as claimed in claim 21, which
comprises capsaicin as a pharmaceutically active ingredient.